



Elementary News and Notes

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hello to all our elementary families! This is a bit of a lengthy News and Notes, but contains some important information for all of you. This is especially true as it relates to our Reading updates with the state. Please take a moment to read through the information. As always please reach out with any questions or concerns!

Elementary Student Council Fundraiser: We are raising money, so that we can put on the 4th and 5th grade Spring Party at the end of March. The Student Council will be selling Chocolate Bars (World's Finest) for the month of January on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:40am-8:10am. Each bar will cost \$1. Choices of candy bars include Caramel, Crisp, Milk Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Wafer, and Almond. All bars are gluten free except the Wafer Bar. All proceeds will go toward hosting the 4th/5th Grade Spring Party. Eventually we hope this can keep the party going for all future grade levels that will go through, but in order to do this, we have to fundraise.

Dress Up Day: Our next school dress up day will be our last day of quarter 2, which is on Friday, January 24th. The theme will be **NAME DAY!** So, we are asking



students to use the first letter of their name and select an item or person that starts with that letter and dress like that item or person. Some examples are Kayla- Kool-Aid, Adam- American Flag, or Lucy- Librarian. This is intended to be a fun themed dress day. Please keep attire, school appropriate.

Reading Proficiency: New state statutes require all students in grades K-3 not on grade level with Reading Benchmarks, have notification sent home to parents. We will be following the law in the near future and sending home scores for those scoring in the 40% or less Nationally on the Reading Benchmarks. We will go above the letter of the law and include 4th and 5th grade as well. I want to be transparent about this as it is new, yet a number of our grade levels have shared this with parents at conferences the past few years. We will be sending out results to those under the 40% prior to our Spring Conferences in February.

If you have questions about the Benchmark tests and the results, please reach out first to the classroom teacher and then to me if you still have questions. It is our goal to partner with you to get all kids reading at grade level. This is a good law that has been enacted in our state and will hopefully help in our efforts to promote good literacy gains!

If you receive a letter we will also send home a list of things that you can do to support your child in addition to the help we will continue to provide and improve



here at Dover-Eyota Schools. It may feel like a negative that your student is not on grade level, but please know the purpose is not to shame, but to make aware and make a good plan to improve both Reading Instruction, as well as our individual student Reading results.

I feel really good that we have all of our licensed K-6 teachers being trained for 50+ hours in Reading instruction this year. While we may not see the gains at this point, I am excited for future years because of the training and efforts of our staff. Your students are in good hands. More to come!

Childhood Screening: Our last date for the year is Friday, January 24th. If you have a child or know of someone who does and needs to be screened, please call the office to sign-up for our last opportunity of the year.

Open Enrollment: We are opening with the state for enrollment for next school year. If you have neighbors, friends, or family looking for a school, please don't hesitate to send them our way. We can be reached in the office at 507-545-2632 or email me directly with any questions at benmidge@deschools.org. Anyone interested can go to our school website to get started. Here is the link for the Open Enrollment form.

<https://assets-rst7.rschoolday.com/rst7files/uploads/sites/737/2023/11/14161754/23.09-25-General-Statewide-Enrollment-Options-Application-for-K-12-and-Early-Childhood-Special-Education-ext-1.pdf>



Yearbook Orders: Don't forget to order your yearbook!

Yearbooks must be purchased online.

<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09822369>

Ordering closes on Friday, March 21st

Upcoming Events:

January 20-22: Skating during P.E.

January 24: End of Quarter 2- Dress Up Day

January 27: No School for Students/Teacher Workday

Elementary Calendar: For the elementary calendar please use this link.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sqv-dCUg_sY5FtyKY7GbDSAcBO3MQ96n/view

Let's make it a great week! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

Ben Midge- Elementary Principal